

The
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EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME I, NUMBER 3



Department of Homeland Security puts Columbus ahead Of Nation in Emergency Communications

COLUMBUS – Through collaboration spanning 12 years, Franklin County and the City of Columbus have earned nationwide recognition from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a recent Interoperable Communications Assessment report.

Through efforts of The Central Ohio 800 MHz Communication Advisory Committee, which includes subcommittees on Public Safety and Public Service, Columbus was among six of 75 cities with top scores for leadership and strategic planning, plans and procedures, and use of equipment.

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) is a key member of that committee.

Chairman Dave Borden was not surprised by the DHS findings. "The Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) for the Columbus Urban Area Security Initiative had already impressed Federal officials who plan to use it as a template for other cities," Borden stated.

"Three years ago I said if we are going to do this, let's do it right and go for the top score," Borden added.

The committee was created in 1995 to address a communications problem with first responders from different agencies and departments using different radios attempting to talk to one another.

Vice Chairman and FCEM&HS Director, Gary L. Holland, credits the collegial relationship among central Ohio's first responders, to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, City of Columbus Mayor, Department of Public Safety and the countywide Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

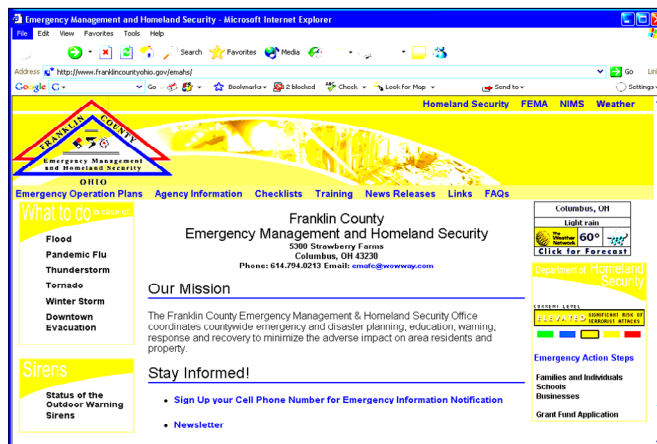
"Prioritizing and allocating adequate funding was key," Holland said, "to achieve this nationally recognized regional tactical interoperability communications system."

Holland's former position was with the City of Columbus as deputy director, Department of Public Safety. He was principal liaison with the Communications Section – the areas' gatekeeper for emergency communications.

Through his experience with Public Safety and support from the FCEM&HS Executive Board Committee, the agency hosted numerous meetings and is instrumental in funding equipment and Hardware needed to implement the initiative.

New Look Website Reflects Agency Mission, Scope and Commitment to Public Service

Features: Outdoor Warning Siren Status Report
Public Service/Safety News Links
Active Radar Weather Tracking
Severe Weather Brochures
Telephone Notification System Sign Up
"The EMA Report" Newsletter
Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Downloadable Media, PSAs



www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs

On January 3, 2005, Mary Jo Kilroy began her second term as a Franklin County Commissioner. Commissioner Kilroy's prudence and leadership have ensured successful development for Franklin County and continue to enhance all facets of the community. Through creative partnerships, workforce development and a commitment to proactively finding solutions facing Franklin County residents, Mary Jo Kilroy serves proudly on the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, currently as board president.



Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy

Kilroy continues to work closely with the City of Columbus. Most recently the Board along with many community groups, local and state governments, saved over 1,000 Franklin County jobs at the Defense Supply Center Columbus in Whitehall. With Commissioner Kilroy's leadership, the board has continued to create over 6,000 jobs in Central Ohio. She has been on the FCEM&HS Executive Board her entire time as commissioner.

Prior to becoming Commissioner in 2001, Kilroy served on the Columbus School Board for eight years and is a licensed attorney. Commissioner Kilroy and husband Robert Handelman have two daughters, Julia and Rosa.

Editor's Note: Each edition we will feature an Executive Board committee member and profile their duties and vision for FCEM&HS. Amy Billerman, Commissioner's Office, is the alternate representative.

Agency Planner Former Red Cross worker joins FCEM&HS



Amy Green

Amy Green comes to us from the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and ARC Montgomery County where she has been active for 5 years in Emergency Services. Amy led disaster preparedness and response activities in mass care, disaster assessment, communications and logistics. As a volunteer, Amy served as a Disaster Action Team Leader responding to local fires and as a member of the Disaster Services Human Resources system responding to national disasters.

Prior to her Red Cross career, Amy worked in state government for 5 years. She served as an Administrative Assistant to the Tax Commissioner and subsequently as a Legislative Aide in the Ohio House of Representatives.

FCEM&HS Office closed Monday, January 15, 2007 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Upcoming Meetings

January 10	10-Noon	9-1-1 Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 10	1-2PM	Central Ohio Public Information Network	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 10	1:30 PM	800MHz Advisory Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 10	2-3 PM	Public Information Network	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 17	9AM	Executive Board Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 19	10AM	CORIC	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 26	1-2PM	EMA & ARCGC	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
January 31	9AM	9-1-1 Managers	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Class

For information on CERT programs, please log on to www.fccert.org.



Gary L. Holland, Director

Jim Leonard, EM-Recovery/Communications

Art Baker, EM Warning/EOC

Robert Crockett, PIO/Community Education Outreach

www.emafc.com

Donna Monell, Deputy Director

Jan Bartel, Finance

Pam Tickle, Administrative Assistant

Amy Green, EM Planner



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Risk Greater in Winter Season

Take precautions indoors using alternate heating

Hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning each year and it remains a serious threat no matter the season, but activities that typically increase with the onset of winter weather conditions pose an even greater risk. Recent tragic events throughout the country have served as sad reminders that carbon monoxide poisoning can result in death when it reaches unsafe levels.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urges the public to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide and to take measures to ensure safe practices. Many deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning could have been prevented by installing carbon monoxide alarms in the home to alert residents of its lethal levels before it is too late.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that enters the body undetected as a person breathes. The gas is produced by burning wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, oil, methane, and other common fuels. It is also produced by automobiles and other gasoline or diesel engines.

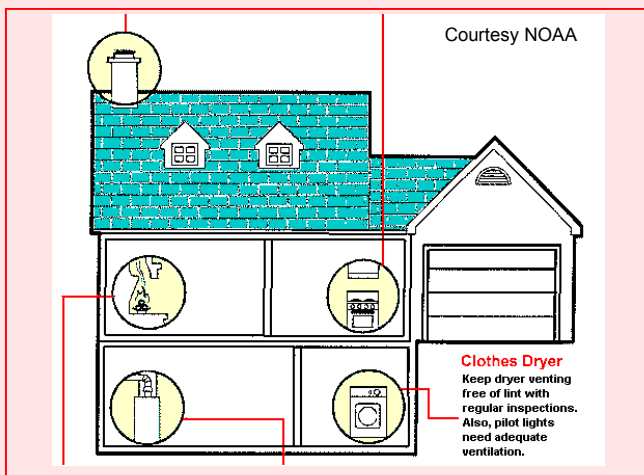
When power outages occur, people naturally look for other ways to see and keep warm. As they look for alternatives for electricity and home heating, they should be aware that the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is sometimes elevated with supplemental equipment that is often used.

Chimney Care

Keep chimney free of blockages such as bird nests, leaves, or debris. Clear the path for gas to escape.

Gas Ranges

Inefficient cooktop burners or ovens may release carbon monoxide. Vent hoods must be free of clogs.



Fire Place

Natural-gas fire places are a hot home product. But, watch for any unvented pilot lights.

Heaters

Furnaces and water heaters are ignored for months at a time. Check for venting and gas-line leaks regularly.



CO Detector

"Portable generators are often used to meet electricity and heating needs in emergency situations. Homeowners are sometimes unaware of the risks associated with them like electric shock, electrocution and

the most common risk, carbon monoxide poisoning," said Mark W. Earley, P.E., assistant vice president/chief electrical engineer.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches.

NFPA suggests the following safety tips to avoid the dangers of carbon monoxide

- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms (listed by an independent testing laboratory) inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area. If bedrooms are spaced apart, each area will need a CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood and coal stoves, space or portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or grill to heat your home.
- When buying an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle, generator, or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.

During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association